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THE DAILY HERALD.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1886.

ROAD IMPROVEMENT.

In the schedule attached to the Loan Act lately passed, appears an item of \$250,000 for, "Improvements of streets of Honolulu and roadways of the Kingdom." This quarter of a million should effect a very great transformation in the condition of the city streets and leading rural highways. But there is not a proposed expenditure in the whole schedule in which there is more danger of the money being wasted. By spreading the amount over too much ground, applying sums to unimportant lanes or highways, for the benefit of a few property owners; by frittering it away in small commissions to many supporters of the administration; or by having the money applied where it is really necessary, but according to antiquated and unscientific methods of road-making; by either or all of these ways of expending the amount, the city or country will have very little to show for the outlay a few years hence. While the Ministry are waiting for the negotiation of the loan, they should be diligent in preparing a scheme for the proper expenditure of the road item. A few thousand dollars of expense might judiciously be incurred in consummating an intelligent and comprehensive scheme for the expenditure of the quarter million. There are the questions of methods, of the soil to be dealt with in the different localities, of the most available material for road-making therein, of skilled supervision over every part of the field, and of the streets and highways to be given first preference in the disposal of this particular fund. It would be a foolish policy to apply borrowed money to any but permanent improvements: that is, improvements that remain until, at least, the loan is repaid—not remain in original perfection, but in such condition that only a small outlay from current revenue will suffice to keep them always excellent. To this end, a greater extent of streets in Honolulu, for instance, should not be undertaken for improvement under the loan, than can be remade in a durable manner according to the best science of road-making extant. If by "improvement" in the schedule is meant only a system of mud-built roadways, involving perennial rebuilding and patching, the country may be congratulated if it cannot get the money.

HAWAIIANS IN OFFICE.

If the Hawaiians can manage all affairs themselves, there should be no serious objection to their assuming the principal offices. But there are hardly enough of them to yield the due proportion of men of capacity, even admitting that they are the intellectual equals of white people. Theoretically, foreigners being admitted to equality, they should have as much right to office as Hawaiians. But practically, prejudices and jealousies must be judiciously balanced in the apportionment of public positions. One thing that should be deprecated, however, is a class of foreign carpet-baggers claiming the offices. Another settled fact is that Hawaiians can never attest their fitness for public trusts unless given a chance. It is useless to say that, because such and such a Hawaiian made a mull of affairs entrusted to his charge, Hawaiians are absolutely and universally unfit for the headship of a department or a bureau. There is no need to come to Hawaii to find either incompetence or malfeasance in office. All said, however, those having the training of Hawaiian youth are not

doing the rising generation the best possible service if they cultivate in them the impression that office-holding is one of the highest objects of their aspirations. Similar impressions are the ruin of countless thousands in countries claiming an older and perhaps more advanced civilization. Make young Hawaii self-supporting and self-reliant, and probably he will, in most instances, not thank you for making room for him in any position to which he is not entitled by peculiar fitness, or called by the voice of his fellow-citizens.

GIVE THEM MORE.

It is said that the \$35,000 appropriated for the expenses of the present Legislature is exhausted. Of course, a great deal of time has been wasted, but all the discussion, even what was fruitless in present results, cannot be said to have been useless. Scarcely any great reform has been effected in any country without a vast volume of talk. On the whole, the Representatives have attended closely to the business of the session, and \$35,000 may be exceeded a little way without making the Legislature liable to a charge of extravagance. An extra \$250 apiece to the Representatives should not be grudged by the country. Of course the few Nobles who attend can stick the session out nobly for the honor.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Anyone who wants to know how not to repair streets, should pay a visit to Kukui Place. It looks as if the teams carting material somewhere else had stampeded through that sequestered lane, spilling their loads promiscuously in transit.

It is said that an important member of the Opposition has succumbed to a prolonged siege to his independence. We hope it is not so, for a vigilant "loyal opposition" is indispensable to legislation, and it would be a great pity to see one of the present "light brigade" fail in the march of duty.

The Chicago *Advance* tells its readers:

The Hawaiian Volcano is again in a state of eruption, the stream of lava flowing down the mountain being about forty feet in width.

When will foreign newspapers learn that Kilauea is a *caldra* on the sloping side of Hawaii, and not a crater on a conical height; and that the lava is boiling in it, not flowing from it?

The Boston *Congregationalist* says: The Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute, founded by Professor Agassiz on Penikese Island, has just closed its ninth annual session of five weeks. One singular coincidence of the attendance was that two couples arrived at about the same time and engaged adjoining cottages, both from the Hawaiian Islands, both bearing the not uncommon name of Smith, but who had never seen or known of each other before.

Has anyone on the Hawaiian Islands seen or known anything of these Smiths?

The electric light franchises were reported on by select committee yesterday. One was found defective, and recommended to be laid aside. The other was also found defective, and its defects were remedied in a new bill submitted. The house in effect decided to consider both on their respective merits. Probably what the house wanted of the committee was information, but in this the result was rather disappointing.

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